

Written Testimony of Roberta Paro  
before the Connecticut General Assembly's  
Energy and Technology Committee  
March 4, 2010

I support *HB 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY*.

For all the reasons given below, we need more solar installations.

In Norwich, we face the prospect of having three diesel powered generator sets each burning 350 gallons per hour of diesel fuel on the worst air quality days of the year, for the next 10 years. This will only contribute to more health problems for people living near these generators. Even with filters on these generators, there will still be substantial amounts of carcinogenic exhaust and other air pollutants emitted into the air.

Having a funding mechanism that supported the installation of solar photovoltaic systems would be one thing we could do to help alleviate the need for polluting peak power plants. In turn, our air quality and our health would improve.

While in the community meeting people and educating them about the diesel issue, I met three young adults. All three were, by my estimate, intelligent and they were all unemployed. Helping solar companies stay in Connecticut by providing a reliable funding source for solar installations will help create living wage jobs.

When we are not drilling for oil or blowing up mountaintops for coal, we save habitat and all species can thrive. As a dedicated volunteer activist with the Sierra Club, I work hard to protect the planet and the people who live on it, and I look to you as partners who are doing the same.

Finally, creating the conditions for more renewable energy use will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into our atmosphere. This in turn will help to stop global warming and the related climate crisis.

Voting *HB 5362, AN ACT CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY*, out of this committee is the right thing to do if you care about people and the planet. By doing so, you are helping create responsible solutions to several major problems.

Thank you for reading and considering this testimony.

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